

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 RSC-01 ADP-00

SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15

RSR-01 /141 W

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O P 172300Z JUL 73 ZFF4

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8779

AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2593

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UN KS KN

SUBJ: KOREA IN 28TH GA: ALLOCATION OF ITEM

REF: SEOUL 4627

SUMMARY: WE CAN SEE SOME ADVANTAGE TO HAVING NEITHER ROK NOR DPRK PARTICIPATE IN DEBATE. BUT WE DOUBT THAT DPRK WILL BE WILLING TO--OR WILL HAVE TO--PASS UP THIS FIRST OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD IN NY. WE BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD NOT DIVERT EFFORTS FROM CENTRAL TASKS ON UNCURK AND UNC. WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT A TRANSPARENT PLOY TO KEEP DPRK FROM SPEAKING WOULD RUN COUNTER TO SPIRIT OF JUNE 23 STATEMENT AND TO CURRENT ROK STRESS ON DUAL UN ADMISSION, THAT SUCH AN EFFORT, WHETHER "SUCCESSFUL" OR NOT, WOULD BRING US A NET LOSS. RECOMMEND ROK BE DISCOURAGED FROM PURSUING THIS TACTIC. END SUMMARY.

1. ROK CORRECT THAT UNGA PRACTICE HAS BEEN TO PERMIT PARTICIPATION NON-MEMBERS IN DEBATE IN MAIN COMITE BUT NOT PLENARY. THIS PRACTICE REGARDING PLENARY WAS RECOMMENDED  
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BY 1949 COMITE ON GA PROCEDURES, IMPLICITLY APPROVED BY

FOURTH GA AND HAS BEEN MAINTAINED BY SECRETARIAT WITH OUR SUPPORT AND THAT OF OTHER DELS. THERE IS NO LEGAL BASIS FOR THIS RULE OTHER THAN RECOMMENDATION OF 1949 COMITE AND RELATIVELY UNCONTESTED PRACTICE. MAIN REASON IT HAS BEEN SUCCESSFULLY MAINTAINED IS THAT THOSE STATES THAT HAVE BEEN IN BEST POSITION TO INSIST ON SPEAKING IN PLENARY (OBSERVER MISSIONS IN NEW YORK WHOSE PARTICIPATION MOST DIFFICULT TO OPPOSE) HAVE BEEN RESTRAINED AND OTHERS SUCH AS REPS OF LIBERATION

MOVEMENTS HAVE BEEN BOUGHT OFF WITH COMITE APPEARANCES. MOST RECENT EPISODE INVOLVED POSSIBLE INVITATION TO LATE PAIGC LEADER CABRAL TO SPEAK AT 27TH GA PLENARY; HOWEVER, PLENARY'S FAILURE TO EXTEND INVITATION WAS PRINCIPALLY DUE TO CABRAL'S DISTASTE FOR PRESSING ISSUE OF SPEAKING IN PLENARY OVER OUR AND OTHER OPPOSITION AND TO FACT THAT HE WAS GIVEN OBSERVER STATUS IN 4TH COMITE. THIS EXPERIENCE, WHERE WE BARELY AVOIDED DEFEAT ONLY DUE TO FACTORS THAT WOULD NOT BE PRESENT IN KOREAN CASE, SUGGESTS EXTREME CAUTION IN PUTTING TO GA QUESTION OF DPRK INSISTENCE ON RIGHT TO SPEAK IN PLENARY.

2. WITH UNCERTAIN GENERAL COMITE COMPOSITION, WE CANNOT BE SURE OF ABILITY TO OBTAIN GC AGREEMENT TO ALLOCATION TO PLENARY, AND WE WOULD BE HURT BY CONSISTENT US POLICY AND STATEMENTS IN FAVOR OF ALLOCATION OF ITEMS TO MAIN COMITES RATHER THAN DIRECTLY TO PLENARY. THAT WOULD BE FIRST HURDLE. NEXT WOULD BE CONFRONTATION ON QUESTION DPRK PARTICIPATION IN PLENARY. IT JUST TYPE OF ISSUE SCANDINAVIANS AND MANY SMALL COUNTRIES WOULD FIND APPEALING--RIGHT OF SMALL COUNTRY TO BE HEARD. RESULT COULD WELL BE EMBARRASSING AND PSYCHOLOGICALLY DAMAGING DEFEAT, ANGRY DPRK SPEECH IN PLENARY WHICH WOULD BE MORE SYMPATHETICALLY VIEWED SINCE DPRK HAD HAD TO FIGHT FOR RIGHT TO SPEAK. IN ADDITION THIS WOULD MEAN VIOLATION--WHICH WOULD PLAGUE US IN FUTURE--OF USEFUL PRACTICE OF NON-MEMBERS BEING KEPT OUT OF PLENARY.

3. EVEN IF WE COULD BOTH SEND ITEM TO PLENARY AND KEEP DPRK FROM SPEAKING, WE BELIEVE THAT LOBBYING IN WHICH WE AND ROK WOULD BE REQUIRED TO ENGAGE WOULD SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCE PROSPECTS OF SUPPORT OF SOME GREY-AREA COUNTRIES WHOSE VOTES ROK NEEDS  
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ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES OF UNCURK AND UN/FOREIGN FORCES. AFTER ALL, EFFORT WOULD BE SEEN AS RUNNING COUNTER TO SPIRIT OF JUNE 23 STATEMENT. IT ALSO WOULD SHOW ROK STRESS ON DUAL ADMISSION TO BE INSINCERE. IN PURSUIT OF THIS CONTROVERSIAL PROCEDURAL GOAL, WE AND ALLIES WOULD BE DIVERTED FROM EFFORTS TO GAIN SUPPORT FOR MATTERS OF REAL SUBSTANTIVE SIGNIFICANCE.

4. OF COURSE, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT DPRK MIGHT NOT INSIST ON

SPEAKING IF MATTER ALLOCATED TO PLENARY AND IF ROK NOT CLEARLY  
PLANNING ON SPEAKING EITHER. CONCEIVABLY UN SECRETARIAT MIGHT  
BE WILLING MAKE LOW-KEY EFFORT PERSUADE DPRK NOT TO SPEAK. BUT  
WE BELIEVE IT TO BE MOST UNLIKELY THAT AFTER ALL THESE  
YEARS DPRK WOULD PASS UP CHANCE TO SPEAK, PARTICULARLY  
TO SPEAK IN RESPONSE TO UNCONDITIONAL INVITATION WHICH IT  
HAS BEEN SEEKING FOR YEARS.

5. WE BELIEVE THAT PURSUIT OF THIS PROPOSAL WOULD NOT BE  
SENSIBLE USE OF ROK AND ALLIED ENERGIES AND, THEREFORE, THAT  
ROK SHOULD BE DISSUADED FROM FURTHER CONSIDERING IT.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 JUL 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** elyme  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973USUNN02593  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS SCALI  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** USUN NEW YORK  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19730727/aaaaattz.tel  
**Line Count:** 127  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION IO  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 73 SEOUL 4627  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** elyme  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09 OCT 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <09-Oct-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <30-Nov-2001 by elyme>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** KOREA IN 28TH GA: ALLOCATION OF ITEM  
**TAGS:** PFOR, KS, KN, UN  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005